

# WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

FROM

## CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

402 FLOOD BUILDING

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SAN FRANCISCO,  
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PUBLICATION OF REPORTS ON CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT AND  
UNEMPLOYMENT TO BE RESUMED

(CFLNL) SAN FRANCISCO.--With the December issue, the Department of Industrial Relations and the Department of Employment resumed the joint publication of the reports on civilian employment and unemployment in California which were previously published by these departments together with the Office of the Director of Planning and Research. These reports will be released bi-monthly as a summary statement of trends in the state as a whole.

The December report discloses that total civilian employment in California fell off sharply between October and November. This decline was due not only to seasonal replacements; nonseasonal factors also were evident. (Attention is drawn to earlier issues of the NEWSLETTER in which the mixed trend in our economy was reported.)

The total number of civilians employed in mid-November was estimated at 4,133,000, which was 94,000 below the October total of 4,227,000. At the same time, estimated unemployment mounted to 248,000 in November from 220,000 in October. While total employment is higher than a year ago by 46,000, unemployment is also higher by 44,000 which reflects an increase in the total working force in the state resulting primarily from continued in-migration.

In California, employment normally decreases during the winter months as seasonal activities slacken off. It is expected, however, that there may be a greater-than-seasonal contraction of employment

this winter because of the diminishing demand for labor, already apparent in a number of industries.

In manufacturing employment decreased by more than the usual seasonal amount, falling to 762,000 in November from 794,000 in October. The decrease was particularly significant because for the first time since May a month-to-month reduction was registered in durable goods manufacturing industries as a whole. Employment in construction in November was 12,000 below the year's peak of 257,000 reached in late summer.

In trade, employment decreased by 4,000 between October and November, contrary to the trend of previous years. Employment in retail trade this November rose only 4,000 above October, reflecting a less-than-seasonal rise in retail sales. In previous years the increase has been considerably greater. More than offsetting the small increase in retail trade was a decrease of 8,000 in the number of persons employed in wholesale trade resulting from seasonal reductions in wholesale distribution of fruits and vegetables. The grand total of 975,000 in wholesale and retail trade combined is 24,000 below November, 1947.

There was a slight drop in federal, state, and local government employment. Agricultural employment fell seasonally as usual.

As reported above, unemployment mounted. The number of persons receiving unemployment benefits under state unemployment insurance, veterans' readjustment program, and railroad unemployment insurance rose to 171,000 in November -- a 16 percent increase over the preceding month and 27 percent above the total for November, 1947.

Detailed statistics of unemployment in California and employment security operations may be obtained from the Department of Employment, 1025 P Street, Sacramento 14, California. For similar information dealing with current employment, such inquiries should be directed to the Division of Labor Statistics and Research, Department of Industrial Relations, 965 Mission Street, San Francisco 3.

### 1948 HOUSING STARTS APPROACH 1925 PEAK

(CFLNL)SAN FRANCISCO.--Builders started 56,000 new permanent nonfarm dwelling units in December, bringing the total for the year up to 926,800 according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. This preliminary total approaches within about 1 percent of the 937,000 units put under construction in 1925 -- the peak year for housing starts. The Bureau expects that when final reports of housebuilding for 1948 are available, the total may slightly exceed 930,000.

The beginning of the building season in 1948 was marked by a sharp upswing in construction activity, with new houses started at a rate averaging almost 100,000 a month during the April-July period, after which the advance slowed down to a more normal seasonal pattern. December housing starts were 9,000 under the November total and 2,800 fewer than in December 1947. For the year as a whole, preliminary estimates place 1948 performance at 9 percent, or 77,800 units above the number of dwellings started in the 12 months of 1947.

Construction of rental-type (2-or-more family structures) played an important part in the early 1948 housing gains. In the first quarter of the year, 1 out of every 5 units started was of the rental type. Although the proportion gradually decreased in subsequent months, rental housing in 1948 comprised 17 percent of the total number of units put under construction, as compared with 13 percent for 1947. In the housing boom of the middle and late 20's, however, 40 percent of all new dwelling units started were of the rental type.

The rise in the average construction cost (excluding land costs and builders' profits) of all privately financed 1-family dwelling units put under construction during 1948 was not so pronounced as in 1947. The average cost of this type of dwelling unit rose 34 percent during 1947, while in 1948 the increase amounted to

about 8 percent. This increase takes into account not only the rise in costs of materials, labor, and other building costs, but also changes in the type of houses being built.

Los Angeles and New York led all other cities in 1948 as well as 1947 in the number of local building permits issued during the year for new nonfarm houses. Two states, California and Texas, each had four cities among the 20 cities leading in this respect.

Telegraphic reports from principal cities of the United States indicate general seasonal decreases in the number of local building permits issued in December for new dwelling units. Among the larger places showing substantial drops were New York City, N.Y.; Chicago, Ill.; Dearborn, Mich.; Baltimore, Md.; Dallas, Texas; and Denver, Colorado. A few of the cities, particularly Washington, D. C. and Long Beach, Calif., reported large increases.

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#### CELEBRATE NATIONAL SOCIAL HYGIENE DAY FEBRUARY 2, 1949

Social Hygiene Day will be observed on February 2, as part of the campaign to combat VD, which is still No. 1 in the list of serious communicable diseases in this country.

The theme for 1949 Social Hygiene Day is "PROTECT THE FAMILY...STAMP OUT VD". The fight against VD is a fight against two of the greatest enemies of marriage and parenthood - syphilis and gonorrhea.

The American Social Hygiene Association will spotlight public attention on the dangers of venereal disease to the individual family, to the community and to the nation. All workers and unions are urged to participate in this campaign by taking part in in-plant meetings as well as regular union meetings.

Available for local unions is a kit containing sample press releases, radio material and sample copies of the latest pamphlet

literature in the field. This material can be obtained without charge by addressing your request to the American Social Hygiene Association, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, New York.

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#### LABOR-MANAGEMENT SCHOOL ANNOUNCES SPRING SESSION

The Labor-Management School of the University of San Francisco will open its Spring Session on March 1. The Session will last for ten weeks with classes held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Courses are open to union members, representatives of management and those directly connected with labor-management relations.

Subjects offered include Moral Principles of Industrial Peace, Basic Economic Ideas, Some Problems in Employer-Employee Relations, Federal Labor Laws, The Art of Straight Thinking, English, Parliamentary Practice, and Public Speaking.

Classes will be held on the University of San Francisco campus, 2130 Fulton Street. No previous educational requirements are necessary, and no tuition fees are charged. Registration will be conducted on February 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For a circular giving full information write to the Labor-Management School, University of San Francisco, San Francisco 17, California, or phone SKyline 1-1663.

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